

# Labor Resources for Cameron, South Carolina

## Executive Summary

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This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of Cameron, South Carolina. Cameron is located in Calhoun County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of Cameron.

## Labor Situation at a Glance in Cameron, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	55,330	234,992	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	22,912	102,009	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	2,086	7,632	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	9.1%	6.9%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	132	301	22,196
Average Wages	Calhoun County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$621	\$581	\$658

## Labor Force Characteristics for Cameron, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	22,912	102,009	2,046,179
Change since 2000	-2,186	-8,683	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	55,330	234,992	4,198,068
Change since 2000	1,191	7,983	186,056
Projected 2010	71,338	223,488	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	27,246	115,705	2,040,261
Female	28,084	119,286	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	11,103	49,205	875,330
Ages 35-49	11,614	50,077	925,330
Ages 50-64	10,341	41,295	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	26,713	115,611	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	17,577	76,559	778,054
Some College	9,737	41,689	500,194
Associate Degree	3,642	15,995	173,428
Bachelors Degree	6,261	27,879	351,526
Post Bachelor	3,872	14,650	178,529

*\*Prime working age group:*  
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

## Employment Characteristics for Cameron, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	20,826	94,378	1,906,571

*Total Employment* data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Calhoun County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>12,379</b>
<b>Mining</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1,603</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>11,891</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>4,293</b>	<b>111,730</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>4,169</b>	<b>11,741</b>	<b>275,573</b>
Wood product manufacturing	82	344	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	12	216	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing	4	83	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	193	760	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	553	1,229	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	203	557	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.			10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	389	905	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	19	51	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	9	67	7,846
Food manufacturing	51	406	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	916	1,976	40,207
Textile product mills	3	56	9,724
Apparel manufacturing			5,321
Paper manufacturing	5	65	14,710
Printing and related support activities	54	201	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	220	469	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	1	22	23,054
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>62,523</b>
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>2,182</b>	<b>7,821</b>	<b>224,031</b>
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>1,218</b>	<b>46,941</b>
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>8,021</b>	<b>156,232</b>
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>2,441</b>	<b>7,308</b>	<b>192,748</b>
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>3,735</b>	<b>186,481</b>

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In Calhoun County				
Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Voridian/Div of Eastman Chemical Co	West Columbia	Plastic materials & resins	650	1966
Devro Inc	Swansea	Edible casings for meat packaging	370	1977
Zeus Industrial Products	Gaston	Fluoropolymer tubing extrusion	131	1995
Morton Custom Plastics	St Matthews	Plastic injection molding	110	1994
Cablecraft Division	St Matthews	Push-pull cables assemblies	90	1982
Golden Kernel Pecan Co	Cameron	Shelled pecans	52	1924
Alaglass Pools	St Matthews	Industrial fiberglass products	50	1987
Cameron Lumber Co	Cameron	Specialty timbers	45	1981
Cameron Bedding & Manufacturing Co	Cameron	Mattresses & box springs	38	1918
Stone Interiors East LLC	Gaston	Granite countertops	28	2001

## Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

## Availability of Labor

### Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	22,912	102,009	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	-2,186	-8,683	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	41%	43%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	2,086	7,632	139,607
Unemployment Rate	9.1%	6.9%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

*Unemployment* reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

### Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	132	301	22,196
Manufacturing	132	288	19,196
Distribution		13	1,213
Service	-	-	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	8,123	35,978	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their residence are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

## Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

<b>Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Calhoun County, SC</b>	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	381
Data Processing Technology	180
Engineering Technologies (Total)	154
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	68
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	*
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	334
Industrial Electronics	44
HVAC	50
Precision Production (Total)	131
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	97

<b>Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees</b>		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

## Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Calhoun County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$621	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$32,306	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

\*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

\*\* Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Calhoun County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$45,911	\$39,027
Wood product	***	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	***	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	***	\$37,533
Machinery	***	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	***	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	***	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	***	\$34,350
Food	***	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	***	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	***	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	***	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

\*\*\*Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

## Occupational Wages In Cameron and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Calhoun County Area*			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$7.36	\$8.39	\$9.10
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$6.25	\$8.43	\$11.73
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$6.89	\$9.14	\$10.53
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	\$6.50	\$7.54	\$8.49
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	*	*	*
Logging Equipment Operators	\$11.16	\$14.53	\$17.30
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$11.28	\$17.73	\$22.53
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$11.41	\$12.38	\$13.47
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$12.66	\$16.02	\$19.13
Machinists	\$11.77	\$14.94	\$16.63
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$9.35	\$12.93	\$16.16
Molding & Casting Machine Op	*	*	*
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.10	\$7.40	\$8.62
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$9.20	\$10.33	\$11.58
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.15	\$15.62	\$18.02
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$12.30	\$15.78	\$18.86
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$6.21	\$7.89	\$9.66
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Calhoun County Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	\$67,760	\$76,060	\$88,260
Computer Programmers	*	*	*
Engineers, NEC	\$70,360	\$75,740	\$85,860
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$32,120	\$44,000	\$56,040
Industrial Engineers	*	*	*
Mechanical Engineers	*	*	*

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

\* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available